

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 785

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, IT

SUBJECT: NATIONAL STRIKE APRIL 22, 1975

REFERENCES: A) ROME 5886; B) ROME 4945

1. THE FOUR HOUR NATIONAL STRIKE CALLED BY FEDERATION CGIL-CISL-UIL (CCU) APRIL 22 AGAINST GOVERNMENT FAILURE TO CONFER WITH UNIONS ON INVESTMENTS AND EMPLOYMENT (SEE REFERENCE B) WAS CONVERTED TO A NATION WIDE DEMONSTRATION AGAINST NEOFACISM FOLLOWING THE WAVE OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE DURING THE PAST WEEK. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF MILAN, WHERE POLICE ESTIMATES INDICATE 70,000 DEMONSTRATORS FILLED THE CATHEDRAL SQUARE, THE TURN OUT THROUGHOUT THE REST OF THE COUNTRY WAS MORE OR LESS NORMAL FOR THIS SORT OF STRIKE.

2. THE MOST UNUSUAL INCIDENT OCCURED IN BERGAMO WHERE UIL NATIONAL SECRETARY GUILDO MUCI (SOCIAL DEMOCRAT), AN OPPONENT OF LABOR MERGER, WAS PREVENTED FROM SPEAKING BY LEFTIST AGITATORS. THE UIL PROVINCIAL SECRETARY FOR BERGAMO DECIDED TO WITHDRAW HIS ORGANIZATION FROM THE CCU AT THE PROVINCE LEVEL PENDING
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AN EXPLANATION OF THIS INCIDENT.

3. BOTH CISL SECRETARY GENERAL BRUNO STORTI AND CGIL SECRETARY GENERAL LUCIANO LAMA USED THE ANTI-FASCIST THEME AS A PRETEXT FOR STRENGTHENING EFFORTS TO ATTAIN ORGANIC UNITY OF THE THREE NATIONAL LABOR CONFEDERATIONS.

4. COMMENT: THE ALMOST HYSTERICAL ANTI-FASCIST CAMPAIGN WHICH IS CURRENTLY BEING SPONSORED BY NUMEROUS ELEMENTS OF THE LEFT, AND WHICH COINCIDES WITH THE CELEBRATION THIS WEEK OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITALY'S LIBERATION, IS BEING USED TO DISTRACT POPULAR ATTENTION FROM THE OBVIOUS SETBACK WHICH THE ADVOCATES OF LABOR UNITY SUFFERED DURING THE MEETING OF THE THREE GENERAL COUNCILS WHICH ENDED ON APRIL 18. (SEE REFERENCE A). THE ADVOCATES OF ORGANIC LABOR UNITY ARE ATTEMPTING TO EXPLOIT THE CURRENT POLITICAL CLIMATE TO DISTRACT ATTENTION FROM THE VERY BASIC IDEOLOGICAL AND PHISODOPHICAL DIFFERENCES WHICH STILL EXIST WITHIN THE ITALIAN LABOR MOVEMENT. THEY ARE SEEKING, IN SHORT, TO EQUATE ANTI-UNITY WITH PRO-FASISM. BEAUDRY

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